

Funding Options for Solar

Do you want to put solar on the roof of a community building, a business or other iconic property?

Yes? You're in luck there are a few organisations that provide funding or financing for this purpose. We've set out the ones we know about below.

Organisation	What they do	Find out more
CORENA-Citizen Owned Renewable Energy Australia	<p>CORENA works with community organisations across Australia to help them pay for installing rooftop solar and energy efficiency upgrades.</p> <p>How it works: CORENA provides a zero-interest loan to the community organisation to install solar and undertake energy efficiency measures. The loan is structured to ensure the community organisation is better off from day one. The money for the loan comes from the community in three ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CORENA fundraises from regular donors who think what CORENA is doing is ace 2. Every time CORENA works with a new community organisation they run a crowdfunding appeal that the organisation can be involved in 3. Because it's a loan (or revolving fund structure) every dollar that community organisations pay back in their loan can be used for new community organisations – it's the gift that keeps giving. 	<p>Check out https://corenafund.org.au/</p>
The People's Solar	<p>The People's Solar works with community organisations to run crowdfunding campaigns to install solar. Using their community solar crowdfunding platform, The People's Solar and the community organisation raise enough money through donations to install solar on the roof of the community building.</p>	<p>Check out https://www.thepeoplesolar.com/</p>
Powershop's Your Community Energy	<p>The electricity retail company Powershop has a product on offer to their customers, whereby those customers can pay a little more for their electricity and the premium goes into a fund to install solar on the roofs of community organisations.</p> <p>Community organisations can apply to Powershop to be one of the beneficiaries of their fund – essentially accessing a grant to install solar on their roof.</p>	<p>Check out http://www.powershop.com.au/yce/</p>
Enova Energy	<p>Enova Energy are Australia's first community-owned electricity retailer, setup specifically to support more community renewable energy in Australia. They can work in</p>	<p>Contact Sandi Middleton for more information -</p>

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	partnership with community organisations to help install solar on their roof or to fund energy efficiency upgrades. Enova have a renewable development fund available for community organisations and they can also offer referral payments and profit-sharing arrangements.	SandiMiddleton@enovaenergy.com.au
Energy Locals	Energy Locals are a new electricity retailer, whose profit sharing model could be used to fund a project on a local community building. The community organisation partners with Energy Locals to deliver electricity to its members or supporters. Each of these customers results in a revenue stream back to the community organisation. These funds could be used to pay for energy efficiency, rooftop solar or anything else the organisation chooses to spend the money on.	Contact Angela Johnstone for more information – angela@energylocals.com.au
Work with your local community energy group	There are now over 90 community energy groups across Australia. One of them may be in your local area. Many of them have adapted the approach used by CORENA and the People's Solar to install solar on local community buildings, they may be interested to work with you to fundraise to put solar on your organisation's roof.	See a map of community energy groups across Australia here . A comprehensive (but not quite complete) list of community energy groups can be found at http://bit.ly/2t3UkZA .

The options set out above are really only applicable for not-for-profit or social purpose organisations. If you are a commercial business you may want to consider being the host-site for an investment-based community solar project. This is where your organisation gets solar for zero up-front cost and you pay for the electricity from the solar over a period of time (typically 7-10years) after that the panels are yours. The money to finance the panels is provided by community members through a community energy enterprise. One of the benefits of this approach is the opportunity to build stronger links with the communities your organisation serves. There are now a lot of examples of this, check out Clearsky Solar Investments, Pingala and Repower Shoalhaven, however many of the [90 community energy groups](#) across the country are looking to apply this model in their area, so get in touch with them.

For more information about rooftop community solar options and models check out the Coalition for Community Energy's [Small-Scale Community Solar Guide](#). It has case-study examples and more details about how many of these models and organisations work (note an updated version will be released in August 2017).

This Fact Sheet was developed by the [Community Power Agency](#), for the Climate Action Network Australia, more information about community energy and the work we do contact info@cpagency.org.au.